International exchange programme for promoting ISM&H

126. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a scheme called the International Exchange Programme with the objective of encouraging and promoting Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of scholars who have been sent abroad under this programme in 2003-2004; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by Government to increase such exchanges in the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Department of Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy has a Scheme "Assistance for Exchange Programme/ Seminar/Conference/Work-shop on Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy" for promotion of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy (ISM&H). The scheme is aimed at (i) providing a system where national and vertical interaction among stakeholders of ISM&H can take place through International Cooperation, Conferences and Seminars (International, National & Regional); and (ii) ensuring promotion and development of ISM&H through dissemination of proven result of R&D work, participation in Exhibition, trade fairs and other events & facilitate deputation/training/fellowship of experts/officers to other countries for propagation of ISM&H.

(c) Six experts were deputed abroad during 2003-04 under this Scheme.

(d) Besides re-circulating the Scheme among State Governments/ Union Territories, Directors, Post Graduate/Under Graduate Institutions, drug manufacturers association, the scheme has been posted on the web site of the Department. Government would consider all feasible proposals for exchange of experts/delegations, participation in international events and providing assistance to industry for participation in international fairs/ exhibitions related to promotion of ISM&H.